

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR RECEIVES FINAL HONORS

Story and photos by Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

A scattering of ashes ceremony was held for 89-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor and former Boatswain's Mate Master Chief Ranald Ferguson on Feb. 23 at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island.

Ferguson, who died April 29, 2009, was a 21-year-old Sailor aboard the USS Tennessee (BB-43) during the 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks.

The ceremony included a short religious service, the scattering of ashes and a three-volley rifle salute provided by the Navy Region Hawaii ceremonial guard. A Navy bugler was also on hand to sound "Taps" as a Sailor presented the American flag to Ferguson's wife, Earline.

Also in attendance were numerous military guests, including Capt. Larry Scruggs, chief staff officer, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and Command Master Chief (SW/AW) Earl Gray Jr., Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam; and chief petty officer from USS Crommelin (FFG-37).

"We are honored to be able to provide the comfort and honor guard service to the families of our Pearl



Harbor survivors," Scruggs said after the ceremony. "It was quite moving for me as a naval officer to render final honors to our fallen shipmate, especially one who has given so much. We want the families [of Pearl Harbor survivors] to feel

their loved one and his service has been honored. That is what this is all about, to show our commitment to the Sailors who have gone before us," he added.

Honoring his final wishes, the scattering of ashes ceremony was held on what

would have been Ferguson's 90th birthday.

"February was a very special month for him," recalled his wife. "Not only did he have a birthday, but he also enlisted this month, on Feb. 14, 1940."

Known as "Fergie" by

many of his shipmates and family, Ferguson was reportedly shaving his face and preparing for an early softball tournament on the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 when the surprise Japanese attacks occurred.

He was aboard the USS

Tennessee, moored starboard side of the USS West Virginia (BB-48) on Battleship Row. The USS West Virginia was located between USS Oklahoma (BB-37) and USS Arizona (BB-39), which received the heaviest damage from the attacks.

Locked in by the other ships that received heavy fire, the USS Tennessee sustained less damage than her counterparts. However, her close proximity gave Ferguson and the other Sailors aboard a front row seat to one of the most horrific attacks on American soil.

"He saw horrible things that day," recalled his wife. "He didn't like to talk about it, but over the years, he shared a few things with me. One was seeing the skipper on the West Virginia burning to death."

When the attacks happened, Ferguson immediately went to his battle station on the ship's crow's nest. After the attack was over, his wife recalled him looking for his brother, who was assigned to a gun turret aboard the same ship.

"His brother was in a gun turret and when Ranald got to the turret he saw a body drooped over the side," she

See FERGUSON, A-7

Bernard relieves Burian of USS La Jolla command

Story and photo by MC2 Ronald Gutridge

Commander Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs Office

Cmdr. Paul Bernard relieved Cmdr. Eric Burian as commanding officer of the Los Angeles-class submarine USS La Jolla (SSN 701) during a change of command ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19.

Capt. Stanley M. Robertson, guest speaker and commander, Submarine Squadron One, praised Burian for his exceptional performance as commanding officer from October 2009 to February 2010.

"Cmdr. Burian knows that developing a professional submarine crew demands a culture steeped in the highest standards and a thorough understanding of the ship and mission," said Robertson. "For a commanding officer to develop this cul-



Cmdr. Eric Burian is piped ashore after being relieved as commanding officer of USS La Jolla (SSN 701) by Cmdr. Paul Bernard during a change of command held at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 19.

ture requires a constant, uncompromising focus on fundamentals, demanding standards, a thorough professional knowledge of the mission and continuous vigilance. What you have done is important to ensure the nation can deploy this submarine in support of our national defense strategy."

Burian reflected on his time spent in command and the accomplishments of the crew.

"I cannot begin to capture the pride I feel in having had the precious opportunity to lead this indomitable crew. They kept the focus on successful execution of every milestone task and took this submarine across this historic harbor to regain its proper station as a ship of the line in the Pacific submarine fleet."

As Bernard assumed command of La Jolla, he acknowledged the quality of the crew he was inheriting. "For the men of the mighty war-

ship La Jolla, I have been impressed with your motivation and can-do attitude since checking onboard," said Bernard. "As we transition to a deployment ready submarine, there will be new challenges and demands, much to learn and much to master, and I will expect great things from you."

Burian is a distinguished graduate of the United States Naval Academy with the class of 1989 where he earned a bachelor of science in systems engineering. He completed the submarine nuclear power training pipeline following commissioning.

His sea tours include USS Boston (SSN 703), USS Georgia (SSGN 729) and USS Los Angeles (SSN 688). His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (four awards) and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards) in addition to various other unit awards.

Navy Region Hawaii celebrates African-American Heritage Month

MC2 Robert Stirrup

Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs

Sailors and civilians assigned to various commands on Oahu celebrated African-American Heritage Month at Lockwood Hall at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam on Feb. 18.

See DIVERSITY, A-7

Chief Religious Program Specialist (SW) Tshombe Harris, assigned to Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (NAVSURF MIDPAC), and honored guest speaker, Alphonso Braggs, president of the Honolulu - Hawaii Branch of NAACP, bow their heads in prayer as they celebrate African-American Heritage Month on Feb. 18.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico



NIOC Hawaii - Good for the earth

CTR2 Kristy Kulski

Naval Information Operations Command, Hawaii

With all of the talk these days about going green and the savings that conservation could produce, for some like Naval Information Operations Command (NIOC) Hawaii, this is old news. With a daily participation of approximately 40 Sailors, the command's holding division, known as Aloha Division, has continually dedicated green efforts and reaped the financial benefits, all with a nod of approval from the earth.

Last year Aloha Division Sailors saved the command \$1,124,200 through its recycling program. Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class Pricilla Farnsworth, Aloha Division lead petty officer (LPO), explained that this impact is a result of not only the command policy to be envi-



U.S. Navy photos by CTR3 Michael Ingram

Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Seaman Apprentice Caleigh Vazquez, Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Vorie Miller and Information Systems Technician Seaman Tyler Owens of Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii wrap a finished cube of recyclables for delivery to the recycling facility.

ronmentally friendly, but NIOC Sailors' significant hard work. While Sailors new to the command may not realize how much they contribute from the moment they arrive, Farnsworth noted, "These savings are the end result of what our Sailors do." These efforts

have a greater reward in keeping the earth cleaner and healthier for future generations. NIOC Hawaii Sailors understand that there are many ways to serve the nation.

See NIOC, A-7



Local units support relief effort in Haiti See page A-2



A legacy at sea and in the air See page A-8



Naval Station overwhelms Louisville for flag title See page A-6



Navy, Marine Corps families 'romp in the swamp' B-1

Local units support relief effort in Haiti

Brister Thomas

Contributing Writer

Immediately following the devastation of Jan. 12 in Haiti, the United States military joined forces to assist in rescue, relief and reconstruction efforts.

Two commands from Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) and the dive teams from Mobile Diving Salvage Unit (MDSU) One, have been in Haiti to help with the rescue and relief efforts.

Cmdr. Matt Ott, commanding officer of the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) which serves as the lead supply center for troop support, was one of the first on the scene in Haiti. Ott joined a team from DLA and has been on the ground throughout the devastated island, assisting in joint task force (JTF) port opening, assessing deliveries at the airfield, checking water distribution, fuel capability and the viability of local markets.

Challenged by what Ott called the 'chaos' phase, there were immediate needs for logistics expertise to prioritize lifesaving supplies and for distribution to accompany recovery efforts. Ott serves as the operations officer of a 14-person DLA Haiti team whose overall goal is to integrate DLA's capabilities to deliver and distribute medical and construction supplies, fuel, air, sea and vehicle repair parts.

Ott described the situation, stating that conditions remain sparse and are primitive at best. "My heart goes out to everyone who has lost every-



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Chris Lussier

U.S. Navy Chief Equipment Operators Steve Eckroth, (left), and Mark Hurley, (right), both assigned to Underwater Construction Team 1, and Army Spc. Leslie Shiltz, assigned to the 544th Engineer Team (dive), wrap wire around adjoining pieces of re-enforcement bar while strengthening sections of a pier in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on Feb. 8. Sailors and Soldiers with the teams are repairing sections of concrete pilings that were damaged during the earthquake that struck Haiti Jan. 12.

thing – possessions and family and friends. I've seen young children and elders who did not make it and ones whose lives have been saved," he said.

According to Ott, many families have only one plastic tarp, and drape sheets across wooden stakes to provide shelter. He noted that as this region heads into their rainy season, housing becomes even more problematic. "Everyone who has been here will feel the effects of this tragedy. I am moved when I hear stories of people reunited, of siblings, children and parents searching and finding one another af-

ter many days apart," said Ott. He praised the Haitians for their positive outlooks and their continual demonstrations of resiliency which has amazed the military service members who have responded to the Haiti disaster. "Moving in and out of the streets, I am encouraged that the Haitians display such a spirit to rebound. Nothing can explain this quality more so than seeing the Port-au-Prince markets in shambles after the quake to seeing them emerge, selling abundantly displayed staples like beans, rice, sugar cane, tomato paste,

fruits and dried fish," said Ott.

Ott described the humanitarian relief efforts as daunting and explained that the environment requires the teamwork of governments, militaries and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to streamline efforts to make the necessary impact of saving lives. "This response is so much bigger than just Navy or one joint command or agency. Those on the ground and those behind the scenes have been critical enablers. Look at the USNS Comfort and all of the doctors, surgeons and nurses. They are so selfless and are doing amazing work," he noted.

"This operation has been successful due to the many sacrifices of sea and land and the initial efforts of the USS Carl Vinson with Cmdr. Ken Epps, supply officer; Cmdr. Willie Robohn of the USS Bataan; and the USS Nassau all working diligently for weeks to extend the reach for U.S. aid to get to those Haitians who needed assistance," explained Ott.

"They supported helicopter airlift operations and maxed out runs to secure needed supplies. Roadways were impassable and Haiti's seaports were damaged beyond use and the air teams worked together to ensure safe distribution of lifesaving supplies. Simply and together they saved lives...many lives," continued Ott.

Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey Landry, who serves as the officer in charge (OIC) for Company 12 for Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One (MDSU-1) at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was part of the MDSU diving com-

pany that served as the command unit supporting and leading MDSU-2 from Little Creek, Va. MDSU and the Seabee's underwater construction team (UCT) worked together to salvage and initialize repair to the Port-au-Prince facility.

"It is an amazing thing to be able to truly help someone in need," said Landry. Landry and his MDSU dive teams are expeditionary. They are trained to be self-sustained for prolonged periods of times with minimal assistance from outside sources. MDSU and UCT divers work around the clock to accomplish underwater salvage, clearance diving and underwater repair, which are key elements in efforts to regain control of Haiti's construction efforts.

The Seabee's UCT is continuing efforts to restore the pier facility at Port-au-Prince and structural supports of the pier in order to regain full access to the port's original input/output capacity.

In the water, on the land and in the air, U.S. military activities have executed the mission goals of helping the government of Haiti and acted under the lead of U.S. Aid.

In response to Haiti's continued need for global assistance, the United Nations has launched its largest ever appeal for humanitarian aid, totaling \$1.5 billion.

According to military reports, the Haitians need help with agriculture, food aid, health services, logistics, nutrition, water, sanitation, hygiene, and engineering support. Shelter in advance of the expected rainy season, which begins in April, is critical.

Diverse Views
What are your concerns as Naval Station Pearl Harbor and Hickam Air Force Base transition to the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam?



Religious Program Specialist 1st Class **Kimberly Robinson**

"I have no concerns. It's a good way to incorporate two services together. There'll be more resources for counseling and assistance for Airmen and Sailors in need."



Senior Master Sgt. **Matthew Friedman**
Installation Security and Law Enforcement

"We hope that the transition will be fundamentally smooth, functional and efficient."



D.C. Smith
Hickam AFB Services director

"To ensure that both Navy and Air Force patrons understand the difference and similarities that MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation) and Hickam AFB Services provide. We both have the same customers in mind."



Cmdr. **John Bennett**
Operations officer, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Hawaii

"We want to make sure we continue to support the Navy and Air Force missions."

USS Reuben James arrives in Dili, East Timor

Ensign Ben Dalton

USS Reuben James (FFG 57) Public Affairs

The United States Navy frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57) anchored off the coast of Dili, Timor-Leste on Feb. 21.

Cmdr. David Miller, commanding officer of Reuben James', and the entire crew are looking forward to meeting the people of Dili, exploring the scenery, and experiencing the culture that East Timor has to offer.

During the visit, the crew has several community relations projects planned.



Among them are two visits to local orphanages and a construction project with a Navy construction battalion. The Sailors will be handing out toys at the two orphan-

ages as part of Project Hand-clasp.

Reuben James hosted distinguished visitors aboard the ship on Feb. 21, with the intent of building foreign relations between the United States and East Timor. Several Sailors also met with Timorese navy personnel later in the week.

The ship carries a crew of approximately 200 Sailors and includes a helicopter detachment with two SH-60 light airborne multi-purpose system (LAMPS) Mk III helicopters. The visit in Dili is an important part of Reuben James' western Pacific deployment.

STORY IDEAS?

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Hawaii Navy News

Suicide prevention remains top focus for 2010

Navy Personnel
Command Public Affairs

Suicide prevention continues to be one of the highest priorities for Navy leadership, according to the most recent suicide prevention update released Feb. 18.

"Every single suicide loss is a tragedy with far-reaching impact to the health and readiness of our entire Navy community," said Chief of Navy Personnel, Vice Adm. Mark Ferguson, in NAVADMIN 054/10.

Suicide can be prevented, however, and the Navy's suicide prevention efforts have begun to make a difference, according to Lt. Cmdr. Bonnie Chavez, director of the Navy's behavioral health program. "Our most effective suicide prevention ultimately occurs at the local level—person to person. Awareness, skills and resources at the deckplates save lives," said Chavez. "Any one of us can have an opportunity to save a life."

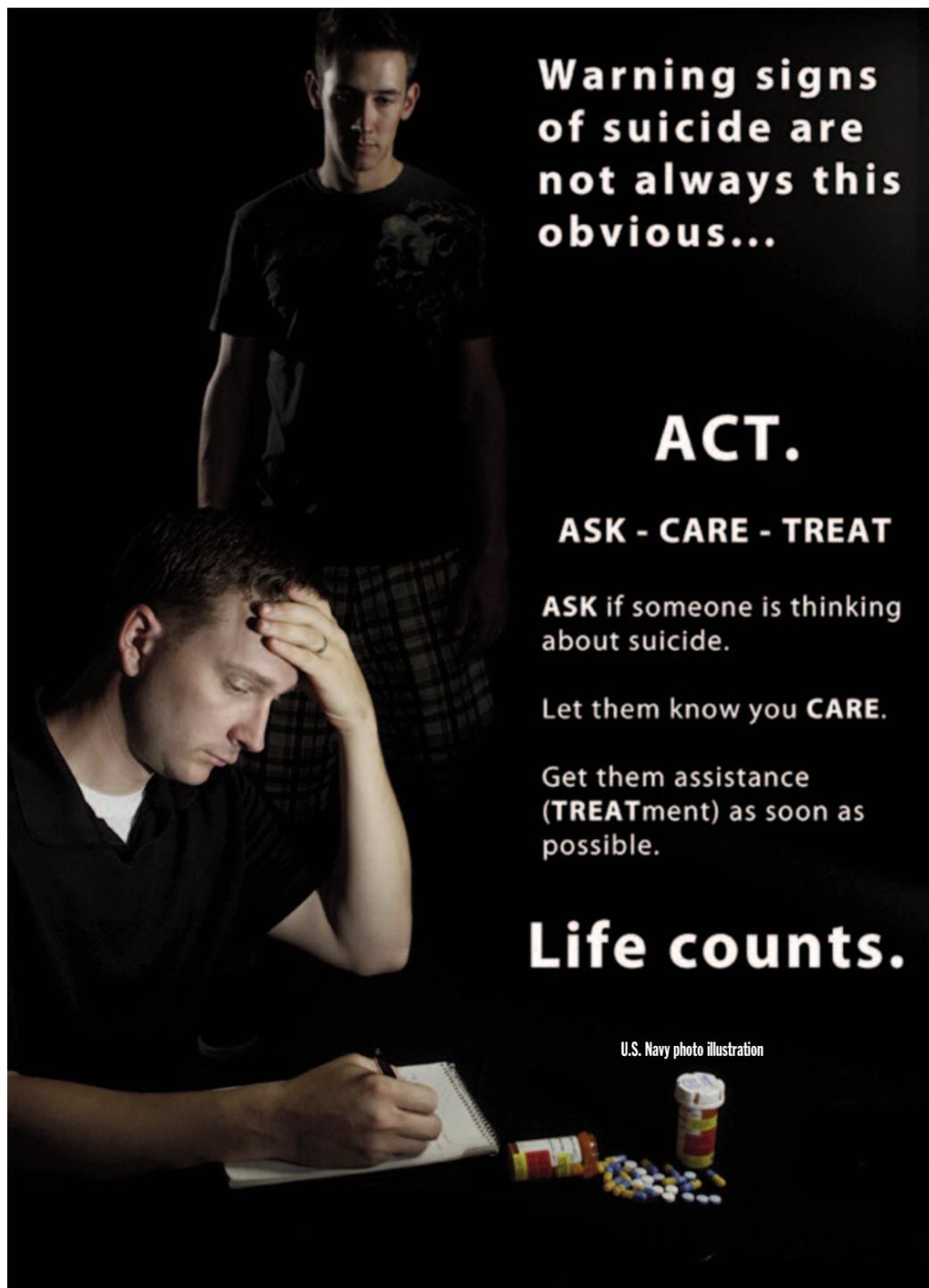
According to Chavez, suicide is the result of a complex combination of factors that lead an individual to experience pain and suffering.

"They feel ineffective and start to think they don't belong or that they have become a burden to others. One-on-one communication and support is critical if we are to recognize a problem. We know that early intervention works," said Chavez.

Chavez reminds Sailors and families to remember the acronym and ACT if they suspect a person may be feeling suicidal.

"Ask if the person is suicidal. Care by listening and offering hope. Treat—stay with the person and get them to professional help," said Chavez.

According to the 2009 Behavioral Health Quick Poll, many Sailors expect negative career consequences for getting help for stress reactions or suicidal ideas and expect to lose a security clearance, but Chavez pointed out that



Warning signs of suicide are not always this obvious...

ACT.

ASK - CARE - TREAT

ASK if someone is thinking about suicide.

Let them know you **CARE**.

Get them assistance (**TREATment**) as soon as possible.

Life counts.

U.S. Navy photo illustration

family and deployment-related counseling does not need to be mentioned on security clearance forms.

"Self referral for mental health is widely seen by professionals conducting clearance evaluations as demonstrating good judgment and reliability. Most often, only when failure to get assistance leads to substance abuse, disciplinary infractions or substantial debt are clearances in jeopardy," said Chavez.

Navy officials are examining ways to eliminate other potential barriers to using needed psychological services and removing obstacles that hinder successful reintegration of Sailors into the command, according to the NAVADMIN.

Education and training of Sailors, leaders and family members is a focus for 2010. According to the message, the Navy's Operational Stress Control program is becoming the cornerstone for all behavior health and readiness efforts, including suicide prevention. Efforts this year will focus on improving family outreach, optimizing the interface between command leadership and medical treatment providers, and continue to build a network of trained suicide prevention coordinators. The training will highlight the tools and techniques needed to build psychologically resilient Sailors, which can help them, their families and commands successfully navigate through stressful times.

"Reaching out to families is important," said Chavez, "because family members are often the first to notice a concern. We must educate our families on warning signs, risk factors for suicide, and how to access helpful resources. We also need to develop the relationships and a connection between commands and families before a crisis occurs," said Chavez.

For more information, read NAVADMIN 054/10 or visit www.suicide.navy.mil.

This week in NAVAL HISTORY

February 23

1795 - U.S. Navy Office of Purveyor of Supplies is established. This is the Navy Supply Corps birthday.

1919 - Launching of Osmond Ingram (DD-255), first Navy ship named for an enlisted man.

1944 - Carrier groups under Spruance attack Saipan, Tinian and Rota in the Marianas.

1945 - Marines and a Navy hospital corpsman raise flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima.

February 24

1813 - USS Hornet, commanded by Capt. James Lawrence, captures HMS Peacock.

1968 - Task Force Clearwater is established in I Corps.

February 25

1861 - Saratoga, member of U.S. African Squadron, captures slaver sloop Express.

1933 - Commissioning of USS Ranger, first true aircraft carrier.

1959 - USS Galveston fires first Talos surface-to-air missile.

February 26

1811 - Congress authorizes first naval hospital.

1913 - Approval of experimental wind tunnel for Navy.

1944 - Sue Sophia Dauser, superintendent of the Navy's Nurse Corps, is first woman in Navy to receive rank of captain.

February 27

1942 - Battle of the Java Sea, Allied Naval Force attacks Japanese invasion convoy.

1942 - First airborne mine sweep in a live minefield took place in the Haiphong, Vietnam ship channel by helicopters from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 12 on board USS New Orleans.



During the early 1970s, the Navy Recruiting Command issued several posters that featured African-American themes and individuals, as well as others that showed racially integrated Navy activities. This was a Navy recruiting poster issued in 1971.

Photo by Navy Historical Center

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USS O'Kane Sailors share insights on African-Americans in today's Navy

Story and photos by
Blair Martin

Contributing Writer

In observance of African-American Heritage Month, several USS O'Kane (DDG 77) Sailors shared their unique perspectives as African-Americans in today's U.S. Navy.

Joining the Navy when she was 18 years old in 2007, Boatswain's Mate Seaman Ashleigh Phifer said she is relatively new to Navy life and is still in the process of getting her "sea legs."

"The thing that has impacted me the most about the Navy is the culture of discipline and structure," said the Texas native. "Now when I go home, I am a different person around my friends. I respect people more and make different choices when I am with my friends. I guess you could say I am thinking about my Navy career instead of clubbing," she added.

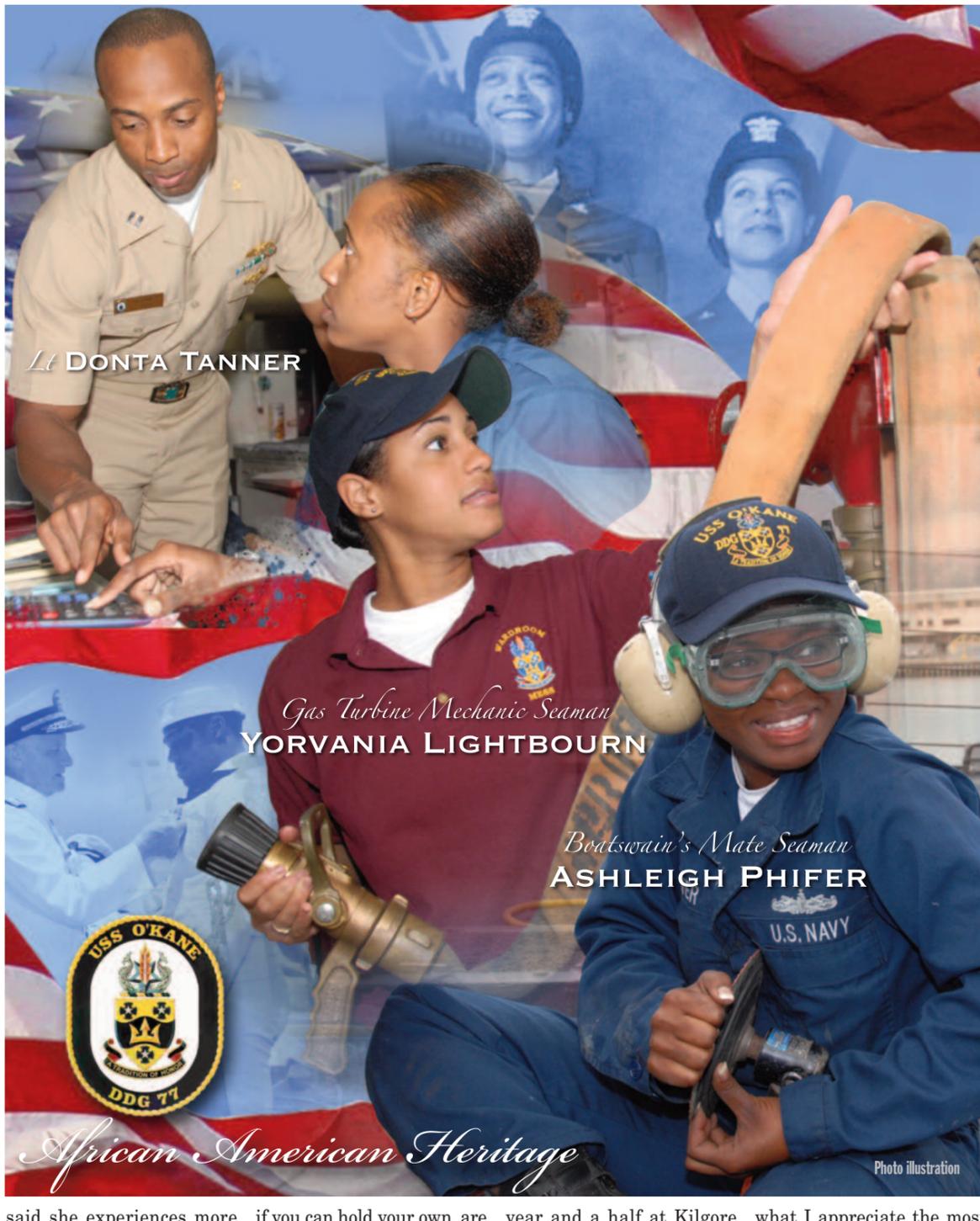
Phifer said when it comes to African-American role models, her mother is her number-one inspiration.

"A lot of people look up to celebrities, but I don't know any of them on a personal level," she said. "Who I do know is my mom and she has been both my mother and father when I was growing up. If it wasn't for her, I probably would not have joined the Navy. She was the one to encourage me to do something different with my life."

Gas Turbine Mechanic Seaman Yorvania Lightbourn, engineering department, said she is the only African-American female in her rate aboard O'Kane.

"Being in my rate has been great," said the Miami native. "We get greasy and dirty, but it can also be a lot of fun."

In her rate, Lightbourn



Lt. DONTA TANNER

Gas Turbine Mechanic Seaman
YORVANIA LIGHTBOURN

Boatswain's Mate Seaman
ASHLEIGH PHIFER

African American Heritage

Photo illustration

said she experiences more pressure from being a female than being a minority.

"A lot of girls give up or cross rate because it can be pretty tough," she said. "But

if you can hold your own, are willing to learn, and willing to pull your weight, it makes all the difference."

No stranger to competition, Lightbourn spent a

year and a half at Kilgore College in Texas on a basketball scholarship before enlisting in the Navy.

"I think the competition and the pressure aspect is

what I appreciate the most about my job," she said. "In this rate, there is pressure to learn and learn fast. It is motivation because you don't want anyone else

to outshine you."

Also a former athlete, Lt. Donta Tanner, supply officer, said that the Navy gave him numerous opportunities to excel throughout his 18-year career, including transitioning from enlisted Sailor to naval officer.

"I had many key individuals in my life guide me and encourage me to go back to school and [eventually] look into the officer program," said the Kansas City, Mo. native. "In fact, when I was a seaman, there was one chief that actually went down to the local college, got me an application, and helped me fill it out. That definitely became a turning point in my life," he added.

Tanner said now that he is an officer, he serves as a mentor to many of his Sailors, helping them mature in their budding careers.

"When I was enlisted, you are constantly taking on more duties and striving to get more out of your career," he said. "Now that I am an officer, I want to just be an example to my Sailors. I love watching them grow and seeing the motivation in their eyes when they've accomplished something. Honestly, I think that is what I wake up for," he explained.

As the grandson of a sharecropper from Mississippi, Tanner said he would not be able to enjoy his life and career as a Navy officer if it were not for the many contributions made by notable African-Americans before him.

"When I think of African-American Heritage Month, I not only think of the tough times the slaves and other famous African-Americans had, I also think about the people in my family, like my grandfather," he said. "They were the ones who paved the way for all of us and are the reason why me and my [African-American] counterparts can appreciate what we have today."

Pearl Harbor Highlights



(Left) Master-at-Arms 1st Class Evette McDowald, assigned to Commander Navy Region Hawaii, meets retired Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson, one of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of African-American pilots who fought in World War II as part of the 332nd Fighter Group of the U.S. Army Air Corps. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American military aviators in the U.S. armed forces. Sailors assigned to Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific hosted the African-American Heritage Month with an observance entitled, "The History of Black Economic Empowerment."

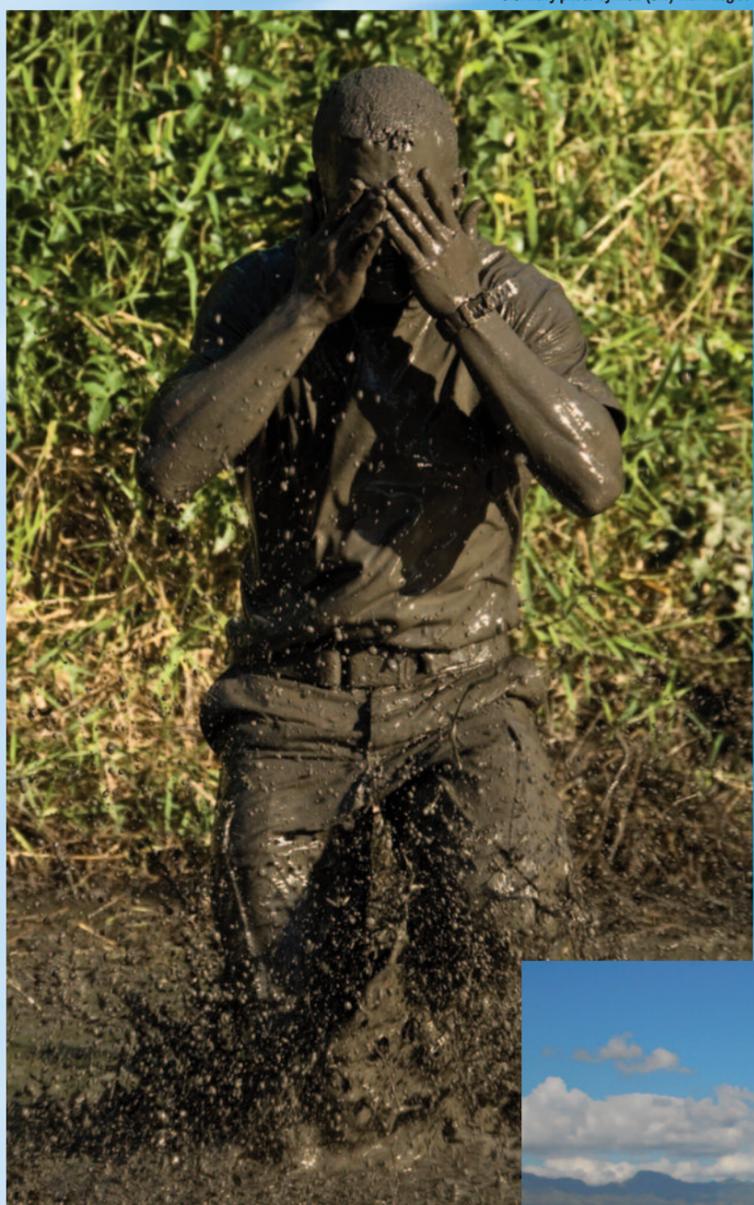
U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

(Below) Musician 3rd Class Jason Gay, assigned to the Pacific Fleet Band, plays "Four" by Miles Davis on the tenor saxophone. Sailors assigned to Navy Region Hawaii and Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific hosted the African-American Heritage Month with an observance entitled, "The History of Black Economic Empowerment."

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico

(Below) A participant wipes the sludge from his face after jumping in the muddy pond during the 16th annual Swamp Romp on Feb. 20. More than 300 six-person teams participated in the Swamp Romp, hosted by Combat Logistics Battalion 3. See story and additional photos on page B-1.

U.S. Navy photo by MC2 (SW) Mark Logico



(Right) The Navy Region Hawaii ceremonial guard renders military honors during a Feb. 23 scattering of ashes ceremony held for the family of 89-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor and former Boatswain's Mate Master Chief Ranald Ferguson at the USS Utah Memorial on Ford Island. Ferguson was a 21-year-old Sailor aboard the USS Tennessee (BB-43) during the 1941 Pearl Harbor attacks.

U.S. Navy photo by Blair Martin



(Left) Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Katherine Gardner and Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Vorie Miller of Naval Information Operations Command Hawaii sort and load plastic bottles into the compactor.

U.S. Navy photos by CTR3 Michael Ingram

Naval Station overwhelms Louisville for flag title

Story and photos by
Randy Dela Cruz

Contributing Writer

The battle for bragging rights to the base flag football championship turned out to be no contest at all, as Naval Station Pearl Harbor (NAVSTA) blitzed USS Louisville (SSN 724), 51-0, to capture the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Intramural Football League crown at Ward Field, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on Feb. 18.

NAVSTA completed the year with an impeccable 14-1 overall record, while Louisville, which started off the season with three straight losses, won 10 in a row before succumbing in the title showdown.

NAVSTA quarterback, Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Aaron Jackson, stated that although the team's last game came in the ashore championship three weeks ago, he believed that he and his teammates would prevail against Louisville.

"Louisville made it this far so I knew that they were a good team," said Jackson. "I figured that it would be a hard-fought game, but if executed and did what we can do, I had a good feeling that we would come out on top of this."

On the game's opening drive from its own 15-yard line, Louisville, behind the leadership of signal caller Lt. j.g. Michael Humara, immediately picked up 10 yards and a first down on a pass completion to the 25.

However, NAVSTA stole the game's momentum on the very next play when Air Traffic Controller 2nd Class Willie Calhoun picked off a pass from Humara at the 30 and returned it down to the Louisville 19-yard line.

On second down, Jackson ran the ball down to the one before breaking the plane for six points on the very next play. NAVSTA converted on its point after touchdown (PAT) to take a 7-0 lead.

"That [interception] was big because that let them [Louisville] know that they were going to be in a fight,"



said Jackson. "When you get a turnover close to the end zone that early in the game, the momentum immediately shifts your way."

Right after the score, NAVSTA's defense went right back to work in keeping the pressure on Humara and his teammates.

Operations Specialist 2nd Class Donte East of NAVSTA

sacked Humara back on the six-yard line on the first play from scrimmage, before Jackson came up with the team's second interception of the day to place the ball on the Louisville 10.

Four plays later, Jackson connected with Master-at-Arms Seaman Brandon Thomason for three yards and a touchdown. The team's PAT

made the score 14-0.

East, who along with teammate Personnel Specialist Seaman Terrence Key unleashed a ferocious pass rush against Humara, said that NAVSTA's main strategy on defense was to keep the quarterback on his toes.

"We just kept on attacking and attacking and gave 100 percent," said East, who won

his first flag football title after playing in the league for nine seasons. "We knew that once our first line of defense got to him, he wouldn't have time to find open receivers. You saw that every time he threw the ball, he threw to the wrong team."

In first half, Humara was picked off three times while his offense mustered only one

first down and was held to minus three yards.

For the game, seven of Louisville's eight offensive sets ended with an interception with two being returned for touchdowns.

Jackson hauled in his second pick late in the second half at the NAVSTA 18-yard line and took it to the house for a 62-yard score.

Later, the game was officially ended when Hospital Corpsman Seaman Brandon Parker grabbed a toss from Humara before sending a lateral to Yeoman 1st Class (SS) James Hall, who took it the rest of the way for the final touchdown.

Hall also had an interception as did teammates, Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Chance Scott and Chief Fire Controlman Ryan York.

"Offense gets the glory because we score the points," said Jackson. "But this win, I got to put this on our defense."

Humara, who was only playing his second game at QB, said that while he was a bit confused with NAVSTA's zone defense in the secondary, it was the pass rush that befuddled him the most.

"I have never seen lineman get off the ball that quick," stated Humara. "They got around their guys without missing a beat and I only had about two-and-a-half seconds to throw."

While NAVSTA's defense was stuffing Louisville at every turn, Jackson was busy doing his thing to keep the team's offense humming along.

Jackson, who played QB on a short field for most of the game thanks to his defense, ran in two more scores and also completed scoring strikes to East and Yeoman 2nd Class (SS) Ben Warren.

After coming up short in the championship, as a member of USS Lake Erie (CG 70) two years ago, Jackson said that it was extremely sweet to finally wear the crown.

"I had to win the big one," claimed Jackson. "I was beginning to feel like Payton Manning, where they say you can't win the big one, so it feels good to get that monkey off my back."

Photo illustration

Navy, Marine Corps and Nan Inc. officials break ground on new MCBH barracks

Story and photo by
Denise Emsley

Naval Facilities Engineering
Command Hawaii

To provide Marines with top notch housing, officials from Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii, Nan Inc. and Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH), Kaneohe, held a highly anticipated ground breaking ceremony on Feb. 18 at Kaneohe.

The \$39.7 million design/build project is to erect the first, five-story bachelor enlisted quarters (BEQ) at MCBH. The contract was awarded on Aug. 17, 2009 to Nan, Inc., Honolulu, Hawaii and will increase and upgrade enlisted housing facilities significantly.

"The need for new bachelor enlisted quarters at MCBH for our young Marines is very critical," said Raymond Rippel, director for unaccompanied personnel housing. "We have some extremely old facilities from the 1940s through 1970s that require high maintenance and do not provide modern and efficient living accommodations that our troops deserve," he explained.

The contract provides for a BEQ complex built of reinforced concrete masonry that will



Deacon Sherman Thompson of Kamehameha Schools provides a Hawaiian blessing at a ground-breaking ceremony held Feb. 18 for the soon-to-be active construction site for the new bachelor enlisted quarters at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe.

boost housing inventory at Kaneohe by a total of 150 semi-private rooms. The buildings will be five stories tall and interconnected by walkways and community and service areas such as laundry facilities, lounges, duty officer and bunk room, housekeeping, vending area and public restrooms.

The BEQ complex will be 95,595 square feet. Its construction will move MCBH closer

toward the Marine Corps' goal of achieving set living area standards for E1 to E5 enlisted personnel of 2+0 rooms by 2012. The 2+0 is a design configuration which includes double occupancy sleeping area, two personal closets, a shared toilet with a shower compartment and a sink service area.

The ground breaking ceremony, hosted by Nan Inc., included four speakers: Col.

Robert Rice, commander MCBH; Cmdr. John Bennett, NAVFAC Hawaii operations officer; Jim Stone, Group 70 International architect; and Stan Sagum, project manager, Nan Inc.

A traditional Hawaiian blessing was offered by Deacon Sherman Thompson of Kamehameha Schools. A maile lei was untied and shovels were used to turn the soil at the new

The LEED rating system for new construction is developed by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). It is a certification program that awards sustainable design of new construction or major renovations of buildings. The rating system awards points in six categories: sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality, and innovation in design.

features are incorporated into the design of the buildings, such as stormwater quality control, night time light pollution reduction, reduced potable water usage which reduces wastewater sent to the sewage system, low flow plumbing fixtures, optimizing energy performance with special glass, good insulation, shaded overhangs, efficient HVAC equipment, and low wattage lighting. None of these items will compromise safety and quality of life, but will enhance the structures. In addition, the new BEQs will be built to withstand the corrosive sea-salt air environment of Kaneohe Bay.

construction site.

"This is a great project at a time when the economy is not so great," said Rice. "It will provide lots of stable and viable jobs. And this is not a make work project, we need these barracks for our Marines."

The base has a current need for 300 housing spaces for enlisted personnel E1 to E5. The 150 new rooms will help lessen the lack of barrack facilities and will improve morale, retention and readiness.

The MCBH BEQ project has a requirement in the contract to meet a LEED Silver rating. This means energy conservation and various sustainable

"I've been on a sustainability kick since taking command at Marine Corps Base Hawaii," said Rice. "Doing the right thing by the taxpayers, by reducing our energy output, consumption and reliance on foreign fossil fuels as well as doing the right thing by the environment and using our resources better and more wisely has been a priority with me. I demand sustainability be built into every project we do and this construction plan meets that demand."

Construction is set to begin in mid to late March with the project's expected completion date of February 2012.

'Diversity is one of biggest keys'

Continued from A-1

This year's theme for African-American Heritage Month was "The History of Black Economic Empowerment."

The ceremony began with Capt. Douglas Waite, chaplain for Commander Navy Region Hawaii (CNRH), delivering his thoughts on African-American Heritage Month, followed by remarks from retired Chief Yeoman Alphonso Braggs, president of the Honolulu-Hawaii Branch of National Association for the Advancement

of Colored People.

Braggs served as the keynote speaker and talked about the importance of observing African-American Heritage Month.

"Today we are here to celebrate about how African-Americans defined their legacies through pride, perseverance and power to bring a nation together," said Braggs. "It is through the men and women that have gone before us, opening the door for what we can achieve today."

Rear Adm. Dixon Smith, commander, Navy Region

Hawaii and commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, thanked the event's participants and organizers as he also noted the importance of African-American Heritage Month.

"Today we reflected on an important part of American history," said Smith. "Diversity is one of the biggest keys to make our nation and our military much stronger."

During the ceremony, the U.S. Pacific Fleet Band performed songs composed by African-American musicians, Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie.

Happy birthday and aloha, Fergie

Continued from A-1

said. "Unknowingly to him, his brother had been assigned to another turret earlier and survived the attack."

According to his wife, Ferguson described the entire site of the burning harbor as "something that would make your hair stand on end."

Ferguson went on to serve 21 years in the U.S. Navy, including successful careers as a tug master and Navy recruiter.

Unfortunately, in June 1964 he suffered an aneurysm and was honorably discharged, receiving 100 percent medical disability. After his aneurysm, Ferguson's wife said he was never the same and unable to return to work due to his medical condition. His condition gradually worsened, eventually rendering him speechless in his final years.

According to his wife, Ferguson's final wish was to "return to his ship-

mates" and make one last trip to Pearl Harbor.

"It was a beautiful ceremony and I am so thankful to be able to do this for him. But after this, I don't think I will be able to come back," she said.

Then, while clutching the American flag given to her by the Navy honor guard, his wife tearfully added, "We came back to Pearl Harbor so many times for all of the USS Tennessee reunions, but this is the last trip we will make together."

NIOC

Continued from A-1

According to Information Systems Technician 2nd Class Omar Villaneva (SW/AW), who manages the day-to-day operations of the on-site recycling center, "Every little bit helps." A typical day for an Aloha Division Sailor assigned to recycle duty involves the unglamorous task of sorting the bags of recyclables coming down from the tunnel, removing lids from bottles, and separating plastic from glass and aluminum. Plastic, glass, aluminum cans and cardboard are all recycled at NIOC Hawaii.

In order to expand recycling efforts, all members working at Kunia are invited to drop off personal recyclables. Once sorted, the recyclables are compacted into cubes, tied and wrapped for pick-up heading for treatment. "I was really surprised. My last command didn't do anything like this; we just threw everything in the garbage," said Cryptologic Technician (Interpretive) 3rd Class Katherine Gardner.

"As small as it is, we are still changing the world and our future," said Information Systems Technician 3rd Class Vorie Miller. Sailors in the holding division see the benefits of their efforts even as they wrinkle their noses at the smell.

"I heard Hawaii is really big on recycling. I'm glad that the Navy is respecting that," commented Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Seaman Caleigh Vazquez, glancing over a pallet of cardboard ready and packaged for pick-up.

There is a sense of responsibility within the tunnel. Recycle bins are prominently located in all work spaces and each Sailor has taken his/her turn putting some elbow grease into the recycling program. "NIOC Hawaii Sailors know most especially that the fruits of their labor have paid off when they are able to look around at the beauty of Hawaii and know that they did their part to keep it that way. We are saving the world one bottle at a time," Vazquez added with a smile.

A legacy at sea and in the air - heroes, heritage

Jim Neuman

Navy Region Hawaii Historian

On Dec. 4, 1950, Ensign Jesse LeRoy Brown guided his F4U-4 Corsair off the carrier USS Leyte Gulf in what would be his 20th and final combat mission.

His ship was part of a Seventh Fleet task force involved in providing support for thousands of U.S. Marines, making a breakout from the Chosin Reservoir after finding themselves surrounded by communist Chinese forces. Like the other pilots flying that day, Brown rushed to defend his "brothers in arms," men he didn't know except that they were Americans and they were in trouble.

As his Corsair roared through the North Korean sky, his wingman heard Jesse say, "I think I may have been hit...I'm going to have to go in." Though Brown survived the crash, subsequent attempts to rescue him from his aircraft failed and he gave the ultimate sacrifice for his country. At the time that he received his wings in 1948, the only difference between Ensign Jesse Leroy Brown and the other pilots was the color of his skin. He was the first African-American naval aviator and the first to die in combat.

The Marines made it out of Chosin and evacuated from the port of Hungnam shortly before Christmas Day, 1950. They would live to fight another day and eventually stop the communist forces, forcing a cease fire along the 38th parallel. Brown later received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service and an even



more enduring honor when in February 1973 the USS Jesse Brown (DE-1089) was commissioned and began a 21-year career with the Atlantic Fleet.

According to the Naval History and Heritage Command, ships are frequently christened with "names of naval leaders, national figures and deceased members of the Navy and Marine Corps who have been hon-

ored for heroism in war or for extraordinary achievement in peace." Arguably, the highest honor bestowed upon an American citizen is the naming of a U.S. naval vessel in his or her honor. Many African-Americans, such as Jesse Brown, have received this tribute as a result of their selfless display of character.

In all, 14 ships in the U.S. Navy have been named for

prominent African-Americans. Some are named for civilian leaders like the scientists George Washington Carver, namesake of SSBN-656, and Arctic explorer Matthew Henson, whose name graces the survey vessel USNS Henson (T-AGS-63), as well as civil rights leader Medgar Evers, namesake of the USNS Medgar Evers (T-AKE-13). Though Evers served with the Army

in World War II, only one Soldier, Private George Watson, has been bestowed with the honor of a ship naming strictly for his Army service when the USNS Watson (T-AKR-310) was launched in 1998.

But most bear the names of Sailors and Marines who have exhibited the highest levels of duty and sacrifice. Sailors like Vice Adm. Samuel Gravely, Petty Officer William Pinckney and Master Chief Boatswain's Mate Carl Brashear, as well as Marines James Anderson Jr., Rodney M. Davis and Oscar Austin each contributed to our nation's rich legacy and were immortalized in the naming of a naval vessel.

In 1942, during the Battle of Guadalcanal, Mess Attendant Leonard Harmon

worked tirelessly to evacuate and rescue the wounded aboard his ship the USS San Francisco (CA-38). As the attacks continued, Harmon placed his body in the line of gunfire to protect a shipmate and died from the wounds he received. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his heroism. Two ships have been named in Leonard Harmon's honor. The first USS Harmon (DE-72) was transferred to the Royal Navy in 1943. A second ship was christened later in 1943 and named the USS Harmon (DE-678). It served valiantly throughout the remainder of World War II before being decommissioned in 1947.

Closer to home is the story of Dorie Miller. Dorie was a mess attendant on board the USS West Virginia (BB-48) when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. In acts of extraordinary selflessness, Dorie helped wounded crew members find safety, came to the aid of his mortally wounded commanding officer, and manned a 50-caliber machine gun before being ordered to abandon ship.

For his courage, Miller received the Navy Cross, personally presented by Adm. Chester Nimitz aboard the USS Enterprise (CV-6). Dorie Miller lost his life in service to his country on Nov. 24, 1943 when his ship, the USS Liscome Bay (CVE-56), went down with 676 crew members in the Gilbert Islands. His memory was honored with the commissioning of the USS Miller (DE-1091) in June 1973.

Familiarity with the heroism of a ship's namesake can inspire an individual or an entire crew to take extra pride and care in the accomplishment of their duties. Truly the African-American community and the entire nation can take pause at the close of this year's African-American Heritage Month to remember the lives of those individuals in our history who rose above their racial challenges to exhibit the Navy's core values of courage, commitment and honor.

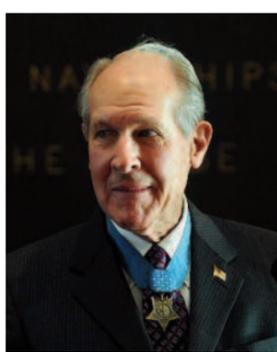
Power of military brotherhood

Jim Neuman

Navy Region Hawaii Historian

The story of Jesse Brown's fate is an extraordinary testimony to the power of military brotherhood. On that day as Brown's plane crashed into the North Korean mountains, his wingman and close friend, Lt. j.g. Thomas Hudner, watched in helpless horror as he considered his options.

As the other Corsairs in the squadron circled the



Ret. Lt. j.g. Thomas Hudner

area to protect their fallen comrade, Hudner noticed Brown's cockpit burst open.

Brown was alive, but in serious danger from his burning plane, the frigid temperature and the Chinese Army. Without wasting a thought, Hudner dove to a nearby and semi-level spot on the mountain and drove his plane to a crashing halt. Running to his friend he found him alive, but in horrible pain and fading in and out of consciousness.

Brown was trapped in the crushed fuselage and exposed to the sub-freezing temperatures. Eventually a rescue helicopter arrived,

but Hudner and the rescue crew were unable to free Brown's body from the wreckage and they had to leave before night set in. As Brown lapsed into unconsciousness for the final time, he whispered to his friend, "Please tell Daisy I love her."

Four months later on April 13 as Lt. Thomas Hudner received a Medal of Honor for his bravery, he took the hand of Daisy Brown, standing tearfully next to him as he spoke Jesse's last words. The message was delivered.

KHON (FOX) TV 2 Hawaii Navy News upcoming segments

March 4 - NEPMU-6

March 11 - Submarines: with blogger Melissa Chang

March 18 - One-year Hawaii Navy News partnership with KHON

March 25 - Individual augmentee appreciation

(The segments currently air between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. each Thursday. Previous segments can be viewed at <http://www.bit.ly/KHONNavy>)

Got a story for KHON Hawaii Navy News? Email hnn@honoluluadvertiser.com or call Navy Region Hawaii Public Affairs at 473-2875. Stories must have a Navy tie and be of interest to the general public.